NEWS RELEASES

For Immediate Release: May 9, 2008

IS08-116

HOMEOWNERS REMINDED TO TAKE STEPS NOW TO REDUCE THE RISK OF BASEMENT FLOODING DUE TO SUMMER STORMS

Every summer Saskatoon experiences a few thunderstorms that cause localized flooding, and occasionally a severe storm that causes basement flooding. Residents are reminded that flood prevention in their homes and yards is their responsibility, and that steps should be taken now to reduce the risk of a rainstorm flood in their basements.

Here are some steps that you can take to help reduce the risk of a flood in your home:

- Extend downspouts at least two metres (six feet) from the house foundation with a drop of 10 to 20 centimetres (four to eight inches) to your lawn or garden. Make sure you direct roof water to your front or back yard, and not to your side yard, a neighbour's yard, a park, or directly to the street.

- Clean debris from your eavestroughs to prevent them from overflowing.

- Slope the soil around your foundation and window wells at least two metres, with a drop of 10 to 20 centimetres. Over time, the soil around most homes will settle and cause flat spots or depressions, or worse – slope towards the house.

- Check the drainage paths on your property, and ensure they are graded properly, and not blocked or altered. Many lots drain along the back property line or to the lane.

- Repair all leaks in walls, floors, windows and doors to help keep water from getting into your basement.

- Install window wells around basement windows to help prevent them from rotting and leaking.

- If you have a sump pump, ensure that it is working properly and that water is discharging to your front or back yard, at least two to three metres from the house foundation. Do not connect your sump pump to the basement floor drain (sanitary sewer) as this increases the risk of flooding. Backflow prevention devices will close if the sanitary sewer is overloaded, causing water from your weeping tiles to back-up into your basement if the sump pump is connected to the floor drain. All homes built since January 1, 2004, have sump pumps, and other homes have been retrofitted with them. If you're not sure what to look for or how to recognize them, please contact a local plumbing company for assistance.

For more information on flood prevention in your home, please visit www.saskatoon.ca and look under "F" for Flooding.

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